

White Sands Community Hall Society
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
July 18, 2015

Present:

President Fraser Denton, Treasurer John Shepherd, Secretary Judy Peelar.
Carol Linkert, Gerry Linkert, Debbie Waugh, Leigh Rairdan, Virginia Thomas, Eric Thomas, Carl Cornelssen, Geri Horne, Suzanne Denton, Colin Adair, Bernie Feisst, Shirley Feisst, Jim Shaw, Connie Shaw, Corinne Phelan, Andrea Hildebrand, Kyle Turner, Rick Strand, Eric Thomas, Virginia Thomas

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by President Denton with 21 members in attendance, therefore a quorum.

Changes to the Agenda:

1. Add: New Business – Travel Assistance – Deb Waugh
2. Add: New Business – Party Tent – Eric Thomas
3. Add: New Business – Internet Hot Spot – Bernie Feisst
4. Add: New Business – \$11,000 for Hall Expansion – Fraser Denton
5. Add: New Business – Storage Shed – Fraser Denton

Motion to accept the agenda with the above changes was made by Bernie Feisst, seconded by Carol Linkert. Carried.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Minutes from the April 21, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed on the motion of Bernie Feisst, seconded by Leigh Rairdan. Carried.

Financial Report:

The Financial Report was presented by Treasurer John Shepherd.

For the period of January 1 to July 18, 2015:

Income:

Bottle Revenue	\$3132	
Donations	\$1500	
T Shirt Sales	<u>\$ 260</u>	
Total Income		\$4892

General Expenses:

Flower Beds	\$ 415
Interest & Bank Charges	\$ 39
Liability Insurance	\$ 486

Misc.	\$ 172
T Shirts	<u>\$1950</u>
Total General Expenses	\$3062

Social Events:

Card Night	\$ 164
Christmas Dinner	\$ 207
Golf	<u>\$1568</u>
Total Social Events	\$1939

Total Expenses:	\$5001
Net Income:	-\$ 109

Cash in Bank: \$21,782

It was noted that the negative Net Income is due to the expense for T Shirts. Sale of the shirts will recover this loss. Today, we had additional sales of \$140 which is not reflected in the above financial report.

Motion to accept the Financial Report was made by Eric Thomas, seconded by Jim Costigan. Carried.

Old/Unfinished Business:

1. Buffalo Lake T-shirts – Thanks to Alana Costigan for organizing this effort. “Buffalo Lake T-Shirts are now available for sale at \$20 each. They are short sleeve T-shirts, red in colour with a white buffalo imprinted. They come in sizes: Small to 3XL. If you wish to purchase one, please see Suzanne Denton at 18 Mackenzie Way.
2. Safe Pace Signs – reported by John Shepherd. We borrowed a speed notice sign from the Stettler RCMP for the May long weekend. It was placed at various locations throughout the weekend – on the country road where the speed limit changes to 30 mph, on Buffalo Road and on Jennifer Drive. John sent an email survey out to 34 addresses and received 11 responses. Generally people thought it had a positive effect on slowing down traffic with 8 responding yes, 1 saying no and 2 not answering. He also asked if we should pursue purchase of a sign with 3 responding yes, 6 saying no and 2 not answering.

General discussion on this included comments:

- Would people just get used to seeing such a sign and not slow down?
- Would we need 3 signs through the Village as the 3 locations mentioned above, are the worst spots for speeding.
- We should not take the survey information as conclusive analysis of the problem. We need further study.
- If we can't control the speeding, should we have the Bylaw Officer come out and ticket offenders?

President Fraser Denton offered a couple options: Should we purchase the sign – which will mean someone will have to take responsibility for maintaining and moving it. Or should we just continue to borrow the RCMP sign at random times?

Colin Adair advised that from the Village Council's perspective – the Bylaw Officer cannot enforce speeding. That is the responsibility of the RCMP. He felt the signs are a good reminder to all of us to slow down and felt they could have a positive impact.

John Shepherd advised that the RCMP sign requires a lot of maintenance as it is not solar charged and must be pulled in each night to be plugged in. If we purchase a sign, it would be solar charged. The new signs are also mounted on permanent solid posts. The sign itself is mounted to the post. We can erect 3 or more posts throughout the Village and simply move the sign from post to post.

At the September 2014 meeting a "kids at play" sign had been discussed. This is a sign of a little man with a flag and the word "Slow". It was thought that this type of signage may be a better motivation for slowing traffic. Could we not purchase some of these and post them around the Village? If placed along the road, they must be moved for grass cutting. We could give them to various residents around the Village and ask them to take responsibility for them. When last checked, the signs were \$28 each.

Motion was made by Bernie Feisst to purchase 10 of these signs and approach residents throughout the Village to put them out. Seconded by Eric Thomas. Carried. Fraser Denton will purchase the signs and distribute them. Anyone who wants to take responsibility for a sign should contact him.

It was decided not to purchase the Safe Pace sign for the time being.

3. President Denton reported on the Village Map. This is to be erected on Buffalo Road before the Jennifer Drive intersection. The sign is 68" x 88". Cost is \$528 plus GST. It will show all the street addresses in the Village and will post emergency contact numbers for RCMP, Fire, and Ambulance. It has been ordered and will arrive in 2-3 weeks. Request has been sent in to locate utility lines in the area. A work crew is needed to build the structure for the sign and erect it. Volunteering to assist Fraser with this project were Eric Thomas, Gerry Linkert, Carl Cornelssen and Bernie Feisst.
4. Hall Expansion. President Denton reported that the Hall Expansion will not proceed at this time. The responsibility of the Committee led by Bill Sanchuck has ended and the committee has been disbanded. Thanks to them for their work on this.
5. Gazebo Hill Project – Carl Cornelssen reported that they are waiting on the Village Council to purchase the roofing material. Council is meeting next week.

New Business:

1. President's Report prepared and presented by Fraser Denton. His report is posted on the Village of White Sands website. www.summervillageofwhitesands.ca
2. Rural Crime Watch – President Denton announced that Corinne Phelan has taken on the role of President of our Rural Crime Watch. Thank you Corinne. There is a Rural Crime Watch Conference to be held in Hanna, Alberta February 5-6, 2016 that Corinne has agreed to attend. Motion was made by Alana Costigan to

reimburse Corinne Phelan for receipted expenses incurred to attend the conference, those being hotel accommodation, meals up to \$50 per day and gas expenses. Seconded by Deb Waugh. Carried.

3. Committee Reports:

Bottle Committee – Carl Cornelissen reported that there are more bottles donated every summer. Volunteers are welcome always. Bottles are sorted Saturday and Monday mornings at 9:30.

Activity Committee – Deb Waugh reported that a Children’s Fun Day is planned for August 1st. Volunteers are needed to make this a success. The September Wind-Up will be Saturday, September 5th. Deb noted that in previous years, the meat and corn on the cob had been donated. These donations will not be made this year.

Motion was made by Shirley Feisst to approve expenditures up to \$2000 for food and supplies for the September Wind-Up. Seconded by Carol Linkert. Carried.

Motion was made by Suzanne Denton to approve expenditures up to \$1500 for the Children’s Fun Day to cover, food (hot dogs, chips and water), materials and equipment needed for the sporting events. Seconded by Virginia Thomas. Carried.

Treasurer John Shepherd raised the concern that when events are established, the expenses should be approved at the same time so that budgets are established before the planning of the event.

4. An Extraordinary Meeting was held on May 20, 2015 as follows:

Present: Fraser Denton, John Shepherd, Bill Sanchuck, Vicky Sanchuck, Virginia Thomas, Eric Thomas and Gerry Linkert.

Purpose of the meeting:

1. Geri Horne has agreed to lead the flower planting project this year. She is requesting up to \$500 to cover the cost of buying bedding plants.
2. Fraser Denton will be organizing the annual Golf Tournament this year on July 11. There is \$893 left from last year’s donation. He is requesting an additional \$1107 to cover cost of prizes and expenses.

Discussion:

1. \$408 was spent last year for bedding plants. There was thought perennials and shrubs should be considered to save labour with planting. Another suggestion was artificial plants. As Geri is the lead with the project this will be presented to her for her consideration and decision. Fraser will have this project as an agenda item next spring to ensure funding is in place well in advance of having to purchase bedding plants. Eric Thomas moved we spend up to \$500 for the purchase of the bedding plants. Seconded by Gerry Linkert. Carried.
2. The Annual Golf Tournament is July 11. Comments received about last year’s tournament is some people did not receive a prize. The thought is everyone in the tournament should receive a prize. This can easily be done by having an elimination draw. As people are eliminated they will receive a prize. Other expenses will be the cost of the meal. The entry fees will cover most of the green fees. Eric Thomas moved we spend up to \$2000 for prizes and other expenses. Seconded by Vicky Sanchuck. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Motion was made by Leigh Rairdan to ratify the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting. Seconded by Corinne Phelan. Question was asked by Eric Thomas that if we received donations for the golf tournament and the money was not all spent in the year it was received; does the money carry forward to the next tournament? It was confirmed that excess monies donated and not used are earmarked for the next Golf Tournament.

Jim Costigan asked if we are tracking expenses against bottle revenues. Are we too reliant on donations to run the social activities? Should we be setting a budget each year based on expenses matching bottle revenue in case donations dry up? We must be in a break even position each year, non-reliant on sponsors. Fraser Denton said we would come back with an answer to this very good observation.

Motion carried.

5. Bench at Tennis Court – Geri Horne asked if a bench could be placed at the tennis courts for seating of participants and observers. Colin Adair was asked if Village Council would consider this possibility. Colin stated that there is a bench on one of the paths that could be moved to the courts. It would be on the outside of the fenced courts. Colin will raise this at council meeting. Comments were made that we don't need to spend new money on this if an existing bench is available and also observers can bring their own lawn chairs to the match.
6. Travel Expenses – Deb Waugh stated that there are two teenagers who reside in the Village full time who have excelled in their sport of choice and have been raising money to attend nation finals. Would the Hall Society consider helping them out with travel expenses? Discussion included:
 - a. We had previously decided not to set precedents of individual financial support.
 - b. If we want to offer such support, budget for it and have students apply by way of a report and application – similar to scholarship funding.
 - c. Is this where we want to spend our bottle money or is our commitment to community betterment?
 - d. President Fraser read the Objectives of the Hall Society which are:
 - i. To provide stewardship for the use of the Summer Village of White Sands Community Hall and to provide opportunities for social activities connected with the White Sands Community.
 - ii. To provide facilities for the ongoing fund raising and donations as a continuing source of revenue for the White Sands Community Hall Society.
 - iii. To provide available equipment for carrying out social activities and enhancing the community.

It is clear that our objectives do not cover individual support.

Deb Waugh reminded us that we had supported the High River flood a couple years ago. It was agreed that was outside the parameters of our objectives and should not have been done.

It was agreed that the Hall Society will not support individual financial assistance.

7. \$11,000 had been set aside for Hall Expansion reported President Fraser. As we have disbanded the Hall Expansion Committee and have determined that Hall Expansion is not in our short term plans, do we move the \$11,000 back to the general budget or leave it earmarked for future building options? Bernie Feisst made the motion to move the \$11,000 previously set aside for Hall Expansion, back to general revenues for funding of other expenses. Seconded by Suzanne Denton. Carried.

8. Storage Shed – Fraser Denton. The furnace room was previously used for storage and it became a safety issue. Items were moved to an old shed on the property. Storage is still an issue. The Village stipulated that if we erect a storage shed, it must be on skids so it is movable. The Village will also dictate location. Bernie Feisst made the motion that a storage shed be erected, the shape and size to be determined by a committee and approved by the Village Council. Seconded by Carl Cornelssen. Discussion included getting a pre-built shed and getting quotes from various suppliers. Size of the shed would have to be determined by the ability to move the shed by tractor. Motion carried. Bernie Feisst has agreed to lead the committee.

9. Party Tent options were explored by Eric Thomas. As an alternative to the Hall Expansion, it was felt that perhaps a large party tent may accommodate the occasional social activities where the number of attendees exceeds Hall capacity. For example the September long weekend wrap up is usually held outdoors and we can have as many as 300 people attend. We need a weather alternative for planned events. Eric explored options including:
 - an arched ribbed building which would be a permanent structure at about \$40,000
 - tents that we would erect - 2 tents measuring 30x30 each would cost about \$12,000
 - renting tents – a 30x60 would be about \$1300 for the weekend and the supplier would erect and take down for an additional cost of \$500 to cover time and mileage. This would require pre-planning to book a tent rental.

Leigh Rairdan mentioned that they had personally bought a 20x40 tent for family functions at a cost of \$1250 and it is not hard to erect. She has seen similar tents for under \$2000. It doesn't seem reasonable to spend money renting when we could buy for less money.

Comment was made that the volunteers who put on these functions are all getting older and putting up tents may not be as easy for them.

Eric Thomas commented that if we want to expand our social functions and continue to enjoy them regardless of weather, we need a weather facility proof facility that is structurally sound.

Fraser Denton asked for suggestions on how to proceed. Alana Costigan made the motion to rent a tent this year for the fall wind up, to see if it suits our needs. Have the supplier erect and take down the tent. Seconded by Gerry Linkert. 2 opposed. Carried. Further research will be made on rental suppliers and a tent will be booked for the September long weekend.

10. Internet Hot Spot. Bernie Feisst was passing on comments from other residents of the Village who don't have Internet access out here, that an Internet Hot Spot at the Community Hall may be an option. Residents wanting to use the Hot Spot would be issued a password.

John Shepherd had explored options via Xplornet. There are 3 packages available:

5 mg speed at a cost of \$60/month

10 mg speed at a cost of \$70 per/month

25 mg speed at a cost of \$100/month.

Set up cost is \$99.00

Depending on signal strength at the location of the Hot Spot, a tower may have to be erected.

We would have to email passwords to those who want to use it – restricted to residents of course.

After some discussion it was felt that this would be somewhat cumbersome to pursue.

11. Air Photo of Village – Fraser Denton mentioned that the Town of Stettler has air photos of the Village available for sale to anyone who wants to purchase. They are approximately 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. Cost is \$10. Call Fraser at 403-741-9484 if you want one. A copy is hanging in the Community Hall.

12. Next meeting date for the Hall Society is set for October 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

13. Meeting was adjourned on the motion of Geri Horne at 11:35 a.m.